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Committees:

- Finance, Vice Chair
- Capital Budget
- Higher Education
- Legislative Committee on Economic Development & International Relations

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State Representative
Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle)

Working for the 11th Legislative District
And a Better Washington

2007 Session Report

Website: <http://www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hasegawa>



June 2007

Dear Friends:

Another session down and another set of good news for our district, as well as the rest of the state, particularly in terms of health care, education, economic development and housing.

Here are some highlights of our accomplishments this session:

- We extended health care coverage to 38,000 more children in low-income families and we're creating a true children's mental health system.
- We increased access to affordable health care for 520,000 adults by creating the Washington Health Insurance Partnership.
- We made important funding decisions in our education system from early learning to opportunities for higher education.
- We took steps to ensure that the 11th District, as well as other areas of the state, will share in the current economic prosperity.
- We increased funding for the Housing Trust Fund to \$130 million.
- We approved funding to help counties end homelessness by 2020.

Our 11th District will directly benefit from more than \$11.8 million in capital projects and more than \$674 million in transportation projects, and we'll indirectly benefit from tens of millions for projects throughout south-central King County.

And in higher education and economic development, I'm pleased to report I was the successful sponsor on several bills; new laws that will increase the eligibility for State Need Grants, give college students more affordable options for textbook purchases and increase the funds for low interest loans available to minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

As always, I hope you'll keep in touch by calling, e-mailing, or writing to me, or my Legislative Assistant Cely Lucuab, about the issues that concern you.

Sincerely,



Sign up for my e-memo!

Send me an e-mail (hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov) so I can add you to my list and you'll receive periodic legislative news from my computer to yours. It will keep you informed about everything that's happening under the dome. You can unsubscribe at any time and your e-mail address will not be shared with anyone else.



★ TOWN HALL MEETING ★ SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2007

10 a.m. – 12 noon

Let's meet and discuss what happened this session in the State Capitol and your ideas on how to improve our community.

**Renton King County Waste Treatment Plant
Santler Building
1520 Grady Way • Renton, WA 98057**

For directions please call my assistant, Cely Lucuab at (206) 587-5554 or go here: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/directions/index.htm>



Health coverage for all kids? You bet!

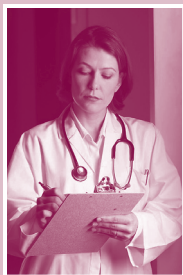
Using federal matching funds, the state will extend health care to 38,000 more children in families with income up to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is \$51,625 for a family of 4. And effective Jan. 1, 2009, it will be extended even further to children in families at 300% of the FPL.

You may remember that in 2005 we made the commitment to provide health care coverage to all Washington children by 2010, but the work we've invested on this issue will get us there one year early. And on top of that, every child will have a "medical home" – a medical professional or clinic that knows the child's medical needs and family history. (SB 5093)



What about adults?

For the 520,000 adults in our state who can't afford health insurance, and the hundreds of small employers increasingly strapped to provide it, some relief came in the form of:



- The three-way Washington Health Insurance Partnership that will allow employers to decide how much they want to contribute to the cost of their employees' coverage, allow employees a choice of plans and let them use pre-tax dollars to pay their share of the premium and provide state help to low-income employees struggling to pay their share of the premium. (HB 1569)
- Extended health care coverage for former foster children over the age of 18. (HB 1201)
- Approval of recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care to strengthen our public health system and cut red tape by encouraging more electronic record-keeping in medical care. (SB 5930)

Making a real difference in education

This session we passed legislation in the House to ensure that classrooms are not overly crowded, and that they're staffed with outstanding teachers who'll prepare our students to learn skills that will get them family-wage jobs. Some of our investments in education include:

- Funding to phase in all-day kindergarten in high-poverty schools. (SB 5841)
- Providing another \$60 million in additional resources to school districts with high numbers of special education students. (In the budget)
- Allocating an additional \$350 million for teacher salaries, rewarding outstanding teachers with bonuses and recruiting multilingual students to become teachers. (HB 2262)
- Giving voters the opportunity to decide if their local school levies should be decided by a simple majority instead of the current 60%. (The election will be this fall.) (HJR 4204)
- Funding 9,700 more slots in our universities and colleges. (In the budget)
- Providing scholarships to high-achieving low- and middle-income students pursuing a degree in math, science or related field. (HB 1779)
- Helping out students by having publishers disclose the costs of textbooks to instructors. (HB 2300)
- Expanding eligibility of non-traditional students to the State Need Grants by allowing them to enroll for less than half time. (HB 1179)
- Expanding the Opportunity Grants Program to help low-income students gain job skills that are in high-demand. (HB 1096)
- Having tuition waivers for families of fallen veterans and National Guard members. (SB 5002)



Rep. Hasegawa (far right), Gov. Gregoire and guests at the textbooks bill signing ceremony in Olympia.

Protecting the environment

This year we took important steps to protect the environment and our quality of life by:

- Prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or distribution of products containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs). (HB 1024)
- Doubling the state's investment in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to \$100 million. (In the budget)
- Creating the Puget Sound Partnership to clean up the Sound by 2020. (SB 5372)
- Funding \$1.4 million in the Capital Budget for the Duwamish Gardens Estuary Restoration that provides critical near shore habitat for juvenile salmon in the area of Tukwila.
- Reducing our dependence on fossil fuels by establishing incentives to help businesses, consumers, and farmers gain greater access to affordable clean fuels, and to produce those clean fuels here in our state. (HB 1303)
- Limiting greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production. (SB 6001)



More employers, more jobs

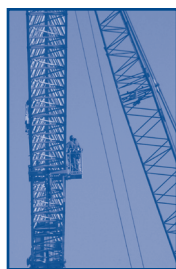
We worked on ways to add to the 62,000 new jobs created this past year in Washington and continued supporting small businesses. These are some of the results:

- Transportation and Capital budgets for 2007-09 are expected to support a total of 43,000 jobs through 2010.
- \$21 million in the Capital Budget for Community Development Fund



projects that will assist economically-distressed communities. These investments will expand economic development and job opportunities, and will help revitalize business and residential districts.

- More options for worker retraining with a vocational rehabilitation pilot program. (SB 5920)
- We extended apprenticeship utilization requirements to public works contracts awarded by school districts. (HB 1898)
- Partnerships with industry to connect students through skill centers and technical training to career programs. (HB 1091)
- Reduction of unemployment insurance rates for start-up businesses. (HB 1278)
- Increasing the amount for the linked deposit loan program from \$100 million to \$150 million to give women- and minority-owned businesses more access to capital. (HB 1512)



Be sure to visit my website at www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/members/hasegawa where you'll find current information on issues that matter to our community. I hope to see you at the Town Hall Meeting on July 7.

Going paperless

Would you rather receive future newsletters in electronic form? If you'd like to save on postage and paper, let me know via e-mail (hasegawa.bob@leg.wa.gov) so I can add you to our e-newsletter list and remove you from the snail mail records.

Other bills you should know about:

- The 11th District is famous for its auto malls and this session I sponsored a bill law that will help these small businesses by fixing some discrepancies in the system. (HB 2158)
- I also amended a Senate Bill so that family courts are required to consider cultural upbringing when developing a parenting plan. (SB 5470)
- I voted against a bill that places university funds at risk. For this bill to become law, our Constitution would need to be amended, so you'll have the final word when you see it in your ballot. I believe these funds should remain in stable investments that support families and communities, instead of gambling them in the stock market to create profits for stockbrokers. (HJR 4215)



For more information on any of the bills referenced in this newsletter, please go to:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>